

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 DRC-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 ACDA-19 /154 W

----- 117166

O P 161136Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0134

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8197

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL SITUATION REPORT

1. FOREIGN PRESS POURED EAGERLY INTO IDF'S NIGHTLY PRESS BRIEFING OCT 15, SEEKING OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF WHAT THEY HAD SEEN OVERHEAD DURING DAY. "IT MUST BE THE AMERICAN EMBASSY BRINGING IN FOOD AND BOOZE," BRIEFER REPLIED TO FIRST QUERY. NEWSMEN TOLD EMBOFF IT BROKE UP BRIEFING. IN ACTUAL FACT, CENSORS HAVE CLAMPED TIGHT LID ON COVERAGE OF RESUPPLY ACTIVITY, ALLOWING LITTLE OTHER THAN MARGINAL COLOR MATERIAL TO PASS. STILL, WE ARE TOLD THAT SOME FILM HAS ESCAPED CENSORS (ABC FILMED C-5'S LOW OVER TEL AVIV) AND AP ALLOWED THIS MORNING TO MOVE PHOTO SHOWING PEOPLE LOOKING TO SKIES. PROMINENT ISRAELI PRESS
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COVERAGE OCT 16 OF US MILITARY SUPPLY EFFORTS BASED EXCLUSIVELY

ON REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON NEWSPAPERS AND WIRE SERVICE
REPORTS OUT OF LISBON.

2. ALTHOUGH PRESS THIS MORNING HIGHLIGHTS ISRAELI VICTORY OVER
IRAQI FORCES IN SYRIA AND SUCCESSFUL RESISTANCE AGAINST
EGYPTIAN OFFENSIVES IN SINAI, GENERAL IMPRESSION DERIVED FROM
MEDIA IS ONE OF MOMENTARY STAND-OFF, WITH DECISIVE ACTIONS ON
BOTH FRONTS YET TO COME. ISRAELI PUBLIC TODAY HOWEVER, IS
PROBABLY FOCUSING ON NEWS ABOUT US ARMS RESUPPLY.

3. TODAY'S SPECIAL KNESSET SESSION HAS BEEN POSTPONED FROM
11 AM TO 4 PM.. AMENDMENT OF ELECTION LAW LIKELY TO BE
INTRODUCED IN KNESSET NEXT WEEK TO AUTHORIZE POSTPONEMENT OF
ELECTIONS. MORNING PRESS REPORTS DEC 11 AS POSSIBLE NEW DATEN
BUT DECISION WILL NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL NEXT WEEK AT EARLIEST.
PARTIES WISH TO ASSURE THAT, FROM BOTH POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL
VIEWPOINTS, ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE BNLY SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER
CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES.

4. SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD ITEMS CONTINUES TO BE ADQUATE. DISTRI-
BUTION SEEMS TO BE IMPROVING AS SOME TRUCKS EARLIER MOBILIZED
FOR MILITARY USE BEING RETURNED TO CIVILIAN ECONOMY. INDUSTRIAL
SECTOR SHOWING AMAZING RESILIENCY AS REIRED WORKERS, WOMEN,
AND YOUTH FILLING PLACES OF MOBILIZED WORKERS AND EVERYONE
WORKING MUCH HAREDER THAN USUAL. SALES OF TRANSISTOR RADIOS TO
KEEP UP WITH FREQUENT NEWS BROADCASTS, TRANQUILIZERS FOR OBVIOUS
PURPOSES AND MENS UNDERWEAR FOR MOTHERS TO SEND TO SONS AT
FRONT ARE LEADING FEATURE
OF RETAIL MARKET.

5. PORT ACTIVITY APPEARS TO BE ALMOST NORMAL. US GRAIN CARGOES
ARRIVING AT HAIFA SILO BEING UNLOADED ROUND THE CLOCK. SHIPPING
OF MOST NATIONS CONTINUING TO ARRIVE ALTHOUGH SOME GREEK AND
ITALIAN FLAG CARRIERS HAVE DIVERTED THEIR SHIPS TO TURKISH,
GREEK OR CYPRIOT PORTS. RUMORS HAD BEEN SPREADING THAT USG HAD
ADVISED US SHIPS NOT TO CALL AT ISRAELI PORTS. WE BELIEVE THIS
RUMOR SPIKED AT LEAST AMONG THOSE WHO NEED TO KNOW.

6. LOD AIIHORT REPORTS OCT 15 OPERATIONS INCLUDED EIGHT EL AL
INCOMING FLIGHTS AND NINE OUTGOING. AIR FRANCE, SABENA, SAS,
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AND PHOENIX (CHARTER) EACH HAD ONE TURN-AROUND FLIGHT. PROJECTED
ACTIVITY FOR OCT 16 INCLUDES SIX EL AL INCOMING FLIGHTS AND FOUR
OUTGOING, PLUS ONE AIR FRANCE TURN-AROUND.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC HAS BEGUN PURCHASE VOLUNTARY WAR LOAN BONDS
OVER THE COUNTER AT BANKS. YESTERDAY'S FIGURES WAS IL 20 MILLION,
ADDED TO IL 350 MILLION BOUGHT BY MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS IN FIRST
WEEK OF WAR.

8. CONSULAR ACTIVITIES RELATING TO WAR SITUATION CONTINUE AT
ABOUT SAME LEVEL AS YESTERDAY.
KEATING

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